

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data search apparatus for conducting a search of data which includes binary data and meta-data, comprising:

a database in which the data to be searched is registered;

search means for conducting a search of the data based on a set search condition and the meta-data contained in each item of the data registered in said database; and

matching means for matching actually existing data in said database to the data registered in said database while said search means is conducting a search.

2. A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the meta-data is described in a data description language.

3. A data search apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the data description language is one of XML, SGML, and HTML.

4. A data search apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the meta-data is attached after the binary data.

5. A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the binary data is one of still image data, moving picture data, and audio data.

6. A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said search means comprises:

list display means for selecting a predetermined number of data from the data registered in said database, and for displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data;

meta-data display means for displaying the meta-data contained in the data selected from the list;

setting means for setting the search condition from the meta-data displayed by said meta-data display means; and

execution means for conducting a search of the data registered in said database based on the search condition set by said setting means, and

wherein said matching means prohibits said list display means from displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in said database, and deletes the registration of said data from said list display means.

7. A data search apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said list display means displays a list of a search result obtained by the search by said execution means.

13. A data search method for conducting a search of

data which includes binary data and meta-data, comprising:

a searching step of conducting a search of the data based on a set search condition and the meta-data contained in each item of the data registered in a database; and

a matching step of matching actually existing data in said database to the data registered in said database during the execution of said searching step.

14. A data search method according to claim 13, wherein the meta-data is described in a data description language.

15. A data search method according to claim 14, wherein the data description language is one of XML, SGML, and HTML.

16. A data search method according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the meta-data is attached after the binary data.

17. A data search method according to claim 13, wherein the binary data is one of still image data, moving picture data, and audio data.

18. A data search method according to claim 13,

wherein said searching step comprises:

a list display step of selecting a predetermined number of data from the data registered in said database, and of displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data;

a meta-data display step of displaying the meta-data contained in the data selected from the list; and

a setting step of setting the search condition from the meta-data displayed in said meta-data display step; and

an execution step of conducting a search of the data registered in said database based on the search condition set in said setting step, and

wherein said matching step prohibits said list display step from displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in said database, and deletes the registration of said data.

19. A data search method according to claim 18, wherein said list display step displays a list of a search result obtained by the search by said execution step.

20. A data search method according to claim 18, wherein said list display step displays a list of thumbnails corresponding to the data to be searched.

21. A data search method according to claim 18, wherein said list display step displays a list of file names corresponding to the data to be searched.

22. A data search method according to claim 18, wherein said setting step sets the search condition by directly inputting a keyword.

23. A data search method according to claim 18, wherein said search step also conducts a search of data which is stored in a predetermined logical area and which is not registered in said database, and said matching step additionally registers the data in said database.

24. A data search method according to claim 23, wherein the additional registration of the data by said matching step is performed based on the meta-data attached to the data.

25. A storage medium for storing a control program to be executed by a computer, said control program comprising:

a searching step of conducting a search of the data based on a set search condition and the meta-data contained in each item of the data registered in a database; and

a matching step of matching actually existing data in

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